

**1655 Heron Lane
Cedar Key Florida 32625**

January 8, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

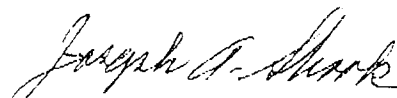
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As much as is possible, American companies should not have to face extended litigation on a permanent basis. That is why I was pleased to hear that you have agreed to settle with Microsoft in the anti-trust case. Making sure the settlement is completed will be even better news for our economy and American business.

Regrettably certain interest groups, many with anti-Microsoft bias, may attempt to derail this settlement. They argue that the settlement is not harsh enough against Microsoft. This however is not the case. This settlement ends any contractual restrictions Microsoft could place on competitors, and opens up Microsoft's formerly confidential code to competitors; an action never before taken by a software firm. Without a doubt this settlement is sufficient. Detractors simply have an anti-Microsoft prejudice and should be more open-minded.

Maintaining strong support for the settlement is critical to ending this case.

Sincerely,


Joseph Shook